



Moraga

Public Meetings

Town Council

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 11, canceled

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School,
1010 Camino Pablo

Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m.

Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

Design Review

Monday, Nov. 9, 7 p.m.

Moraga Library, 1500 St. Mary's Rd.

School Board Meeting

Moraga School District

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m.

Joaquin Moraga Intermediate

School Auditorium

1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga

www.moraga.k12.ca.us

See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us

Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



Moraga Police Department

Loud cheering 10/18/15 Cops came to an apartment complex on Ascot Drive on a report of loud cheering by an anonymous female. Upon arrival, non-hearing impaired police were unable to locate any cheering or other noisiness that would constitute a breach of the town's loud party ordinance.

Alleged driving while rude 10/19/15 The driver of a white SUV came to the lobby of the police department to report she was involved in a disagreement with another motorist, who was allegedly rude and used obscene hand gestures. No one was arrested, but the incident is under investigation.

Identity theft 10/19/15 A Draeger Drive resident was a victim of a data breach at Anthem Blue Cross. A number of months later, the reporting person received correspondence from Nordstrom, Macy's and Orbitz regarding attempts to open credit accounts that were not legitimate. Sadly no suspects or leads at this time.

Slightly different type of identity theft 10/23/15 A Claudia Court resident entered his personal credit card information into what he later discovered was a fake Internet site. Only hours later, his bank discovered what appeared to be fraudulent account activity and closed his accounts. Typist beware.

Non-authorized credit cards 10/23/15 An Ascot Court resident called the police department to report he had received an alert from his credit monitoring service. An unknown subject used the person's name, social security number and address to open a Walmart Master Card and charged over \$1,500 worth of stuff.

Wallet abuse 10/24/15 A worker at a Sanders ranch home left his wallet at work, so he asked a co-worker to put it in a drawer. Surprisingly just a few days later, the "loser" fellow received fraud alerts - \$2,400 was spent on his Discover card and his Chase card was declined when \$700 worth of goodies was attempted to be purchased at an undisclosed merchant.

Moraga Works to Save the Bees, One Backyard at a Time

By Sophie Braccini



Different sized bee hives in Scheck's apiary

Photo Andy Scheck

Throughout the world, the bee population is threatened and bees are dying. With several probable causes, beekeepers are not sitting around waiting for hypothetical solutions, but are developing practices to insure the sustainability of their bee populations. Moraga Associate Planner Brian Horn researched these practices as he worked on an ordinance to regulate backyard beekeeping in Moraga.

"The first draft of the proposed ordinance did not allow for sustainable small-scale beekeeping," says Moraga beekeeper Andy Scheck, the publisher of Lamorinda Weekly. "Because honey bees die at a rate of 40

50 percent every year, if you allow for only two hives, sooner or later you will lose all of your hives." The first text that the planning department proposed in August allowed a maximum of two hives on single-family properties. As members of the public asked for the rule to be reviewed, the planning commission directed staff to look into the matter.

"We had been using for the base of our work the research that the city of Lafayette had done," explains Horn, "but as residents built their case, I started to do more investigation." Horn looked at other ordinances around the country, from Los Angeles to Florida, and he talked to

experts from the local Mount Diablo Beekeepers Association to those at UC Davis.

"Two hives is not enough," Horn says. "When your hives are healthy and large (over 50,000 bees), you split them and create smaller colonies with a queen, or nucleus, in the spring. Over the summer the colonies will grow, then will decline in the fall. Some will survive, and some will not, but with four hives, come the next spring, enough healthy bees should still be there to start the new cycle."

The proposed ordinance authorizes up to four hives in a single-family residence. "Bees need time to adapt to a new environment, and constantly having to get new colonies can be a vector for disease and stress for the bees," says Scheck. "What you want as a beekeeper is to be able to maintain your own bees, even as the number of hives goes up and down." The total number of hives in Scheck's garden has been fluctuating, but since he went from two to four hives, he has been able to keep the population alive and has not needed to purchase new bees.

Local beekeepers supported the proposed ordinance text, approved by the Planning Commission on Oct. 19, and it now goes to the Town Council,

along with the new small farm animals regulation, for a final stamp of approval.

The town planner has not received any comments from residents concerned about the bee portion of the ordinance since the text has been in the draft stage. The new text includes a requirement for beekeepers to raise a six-foot barrier between their hives and the neighbors' living areas, if it is less than 100 feet away. "The bees go where they want to go, where the plants they like are," says Horn, "but the six-foot obstacle will redirect their flight upward."

Horn plans to present the proposed text, which includes the new small farm animals rules, to the Town Council at the Nov. 18 meeting or in January. At a prior planning commission meeting, the small farm animals portion of the text was met with large public support and one opposing resident (see the Aug. 26 Lamorinda Weekly article, "Small Animals Ordinance Study Session Goes Smoothly," in the online archives). At the Oct. 19 meeting resident Dale Walwark stated that he was appalled that the town might be contemplating authorizing the raising and slaughtering of chickens in private gardens.

A Wide Breadth of Knowledge

Moraga Hires New Administrative Director

By Sophie Braccini

It did not take Town Manager Jill Keimach too long to find a new head of administrative services for the town to replace Stephanie Hom. Volunteer treasurer Bradley Ward filled the position in the interim, but Amy Cunningham, a multi-faceted public administration professional, now fills the seat and will focus on human resources, risk management and community outreach, while keeping an eye on the strategic plan and long-term financial health of Moraga.

Cunningham was the assistant to the city manager in charge of affordable housing and community service programs in the city of Dublin and was the city budget manager prior to that. She moved up through the ranks there over the past 16 years. Before she left the city of Dublin, Cunningham was working on an affordable rental project for veterans, financed by a \$6.5 million loan from the city's affordable housing fund. Unlike Moraga, the city of Dublin asks developers for affordable housing fees that it uses to contribute to the development of affordable housing projects.

"When I started in Dublin it was much more the size of Moraga today," she says. While working for the city of Dublin, Cunningham saw the population grow to 50,000 and the city now has a healthy sales tax base, relying on the commercial sector and services. Dublin also partnered with Livermore and Pleasanton to form the Tri-Valley entity, which manages different initiatives, such as a commonly funded community health facility extension.

As city budget manager for four years, Cunningham managed an operating budget of more than \$50 million, about six times that of Moraga, but she believes that the same philosophy of conservative fiscal policy applies. "We scaled back operating expenses significantly (when the economic crisis hit in 2008), over three to four years, including reducing staff and services and scaling back on initiatives, deferring maintenance and replacement of equipment, reducing

and restructuring employees' benefits," she says.

But Cunningham goes beyond just crunching numbers and she says she particularly enjoys fiscal strategy and long-term planning. "Dublin was becoming more diverse, and there was always this need to maintain services at the level of the community needs," she explains. "With a budget you can be strategic." For example, she created a series of community fiscal strategy forums to set priorities for the city with the participation of the residents and businesses. "So, long term, we could be investing in the right places," she says.

Before managing the budget,

Cunningham managed support services for the 40-plus-officer police department, contracted through the Alameda County Sheriff's Department. Prior to that, she was a caseworker for the San Mateo County District Attorney's office, where she enforced child support orders and conducted financial analysis to determine fair shares for child support. Cunningham remembers the positive impact she had on children's lives, making sure that they had what they needed. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science and obtained her master's in public administration while working in San Mateo.

"During high school and college I worked in Parks and Recreation in Pacifica and Daly City, and that's where my desire to become a civil servant started," she remembers. Her first full-time job was with a tax and accounting firm where she learned about financial statements and payrolls.

"Finance and staff development have always been of particular interest to me," she adds. In Moraga she will be working in different areas such as finance, risk management, human resources and information technology. "That's something I'm looking forward to."

Coming Soon in Moraga!



105 Miramonte Drive, Moraga

- Beautiful single level end unit townhouse located in Miramonte Gardens
- 2BR/2BA filled with an abundance of natural light
- Inviting living room with fireplace
- Spacious and secluded back yard provides a wonderful entertaining space
- Covered parking with additional storage locker
- Community swimming pool and club house
- Access to top-rated Moraga Schools
- Close to public transportation and BART

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Other crimes in Moraga between Oct.18-27:

Door of Dodge Damaged - Donald Drive
False Alarm - School Street,
 Whiting Court, Laird Drive
Lost House Keys - Glen Alpine
Warrant Arrest of Moraga Resident - in Antioch
Panic Alarm, Unlocked Door - Scofield Drive
Medical Assistance - Draeger Drive